

11/21/60

Telephone call to Hollaender at Oak Ridge.

Discussed with him the problem of the radiation microbiology work now going on at NASA and urged that he communicate directly and informally with Clark Randt in order to facilitate straightening it out. He was reluctant to appear to be meddling with another agency but he was willing to go ahead as I urged and to try to make a first step.

He in fact, indicated that the people at Oak Ridge were standing back to wait while the Space Agency burnt its fingers in their fumbling with this program. I urged him to take a more serious view of the matter in view of the large cost and values that were at stake. Another condition that he made very strongly but which should be possible to meet is that there be absolutely no publicity given to their work until it had reached a definitive conclusion.